**Assignment: Your Tyger Poem**

Write a poem in response to William Blake’s “The Tyger.” Think of an animal that you are curious about and fascinated by. If you could ask that animal any questions you wished about what makes it so amazingly interesting, what would they be?

Continue to use **imagery** to create a **mood** that expresses how you feel about the animal you are addressing. Break lines thoughtfully (think of Jack!) to guide a reader through your poem. Also begin to pay attention to **rhythm** – the beat – of your poem. Can you create a rhythm that contributes to the emotion of the poem? That relates to the animal you address? Add **rhyme** too, if you wish.

**Definitions:**

**Rhythm**: the beat of the poem, based on syllables and their relative emphasis in relation to the syllables that surround them.

**Rhyme:** The way two or more words, usually at the end of a line of poetry, have a concluding syllable with the same or similar sounds. Example: Mane, pain, rain, Dane, bane, insane, vein.

Steps:

1. Create a list of questions you would ask the animal that is the subject of your poem.
2. Add detailed imagery to the questions to make them more specific.
3. Arrange the poem in a way that builds the emotion you wish to convey.
4. Listen to the rhythm, beat, of the questions you ask. Consider how you can rephrase your questions to emphasize the rhythm in a way that matches your poem’s mood and its subject.
5. Rewrite your poem one more time as you think about how to arrange the lines and how to punctuate it. Both of these things will help guide your reader through the poem.

Adapted from Kenneth Koch, *Rose, Where Did You Get That Red?*